

*Commissioners*

**MARISEL A. HERNANDEZ**, Chair  
**WILLIAM J. KRESSE**, Commissioner/Secretary  
**JONATHAN T. SWAIN**, Commissioner  
**LANCE GOUGH**, Executive Director



**Board of Election Commissioners for the City of Chicago  
Regular Board Meeting  
March 13, 2019, 9:30 a.m.**

**69 West Washington Street, 8th Floor Conference Room, Chicago, Illinois 60602**

**Board Members:**

Marisel A. Hernandez, Chairwoman  
William J. Kresse, Commissioner/Secretary  
Jonathan T. Swain, Commissioner

**Staff:**

Lance Gough, Executive Director [absent]  
Charles Holiday, Assistant Executive Director  
Adam W. Lasker, General Counsel  
James P. Allen, Communications Director  
Peter Peso, Deputy Chief Administrative Officer  
LaCretia Dandridge, Manager Human Resources  
Joan T. Agnew, Deputy Counsel  
Bill Perez, Coordinator Hispanic Outreach  
Amanda Robledo, Purchasing  
Gary Ryczyn, Consultant  
Rachel Brown, Videographer  
Trish Sheehy

**Guests:**

Helene Gabelnick, League of Women Voters of Chicago (LWV Chicago)  
C. Betty Magness, Rainbow PUSH Coalition  
Lora Chamberlain, Clean Count Cook County  
Dan Sheehan, Clean Count Cook County  
Judd Ryan, ES&S  
Mauro Sivartd, resident  
Carlin Thisl, cc12  
Pete DeMay, resident  
Clare Tobin, II, Ballot Integrity  
Joyy Norris, City Bureau  
Olivia Stovicek, City Bureau  
Joyce Good, Clean Count Cook County  
Zoe Chen, Resident

- I. Call to Order: The Chair called the meeting to order at 10:21 a.m.
- II. Roll Call: All members were present.
- III. Consideration of Agenda: The agenda was accepted as presented.
- IV. Approval of Minutes:
  - A. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 8, 2019: Commissioner Swain moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 8, 2019.

Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Minutes were approved by a 3:0 vote of the Board.

B. Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 22, 2019: Commissioner Swain moved to approve the Minutes of the Regular Board Meeting of January 22, 2019. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion passed and the Minutes were approved by a 3:0 vote of the Board.

V. Executive Director's Report [Executive Director Lance Gough was absent from the meeting.]

A. Assistant Executive Director Charles Holiday reported as follows:

- Mr. Holiday congratulated the Board staff for the work they did for this latest election. He specifically thanked Warehouse Manager Keith Carter and his staff, Ron Boyd, Joan Agnew and Adam Lasker on the work with the 5% audit conducted at the warehouse. Mr. Holiday also thanked Matt Lin and his staff on their various election projects.
- The Board conducted a pilot program on Election Day of having a "roving technician" checking on polling places in two selected wards. Geneva Morris did a great job with this project.
- Judges of Election, Polling Places and Election Coordinators payrolls are completed.
- All Equipment Supply Carriers have been returned to the warehouse.
- All ballots for the April election have been released to the printer. 41 Wards of ballots have been delivered to the warehouse and the remaining 9 are expected to be delivered today.
- Printing of ballots and poll-sheets is expected to be completed on March 16<sup>th</sup> with deliveries by this Thursday.
- Chips for the Pre-election Logic and Accuracy testing (pre-LAT) are ready, and testing is underway.
- All equipment for Early Voting at our "Supersite" (175 W. Washington) will be delivered tomorrow. We will be prepared to open the Supersite for voting on Friday, March 15<sup>th</sup>.
- Election Supply Carriers are being released on Friday so that the other Early Voting sites will be ready to open by Monday, March 18<sup>th</sup>.
- We are testing lines at all sites to ensure communications are working well.
- The Judges Department is continuing to assign Judges of Election and Election Coordinators.
- Polling Places are still being assigned. Commissioner Swain asked if there were any Polling Places that are not coming back. Communications Director Jim Allen responded that there are a few, and Polling Places Supervisor Brandon Pickens is working on those.
- For consideration at a future meeting, the estimated cost for ballot printing for both the February and April elections was short by approximately \$82,000. Mr. Holiday requested that the Board consider increasing the approved contract amount with Lake County Press. General Counsel Lasker said that he would place it on the Board's next agenda for consideration.

- The question was raised as to whether the proclamation date for the April election would be moved up before the statutory deadline, as it was for the February Election. Mr. Lasker said that it would not need to be moved up, as the proclamation for the February election was moved up to accommodate any contests and the ballot preparation for the April election.
- Approximately 50,000 Vote by Mail ballots were returned for the February election. A little over 80% were returned, but some could not be accepted due to signatures or for arriving too late. Commissioner Swain pointed out as the number of Vote by Mail ballots increases, it would behoove us to let people know that they cannot send their February ballots in for counting at the April election if they had not returned it for February.

B. Communications Director Jim Allen reported as follows:

- Mr. Allen pointed out the great job done by the various departments and the staff.
- New records were set for Early Voting and for Vote by Mail for a municipal election. The number of provisional ballots hit a new record low (approximately 2,500, or 1/3 of past elections); same day registration and e-poll books help.
- For a big city, our turnout is about 200% of that of some other big cities, but it is still low.
- We have 7 fewer days between the municipal election and the runoff this year than in 2015.
- Vote by Mail ballots may go out as early as tomorrow.
- We have approximately 24 polling place changes. We are going to do a mailing before the election to those precincts.
- We have one Early Voting site change due to renovations at the Merlo Library (44<sup>th</sup> Ward).

VI. Old Business

- A. Infrastructure Projects and Changes in Election Administration: These items will be reviewed after the April election.
- B. Electronic Poll Books: Judd Ryan of ES&S reported that everything went well with the February election. Preparations are beginning for the April election. Pre-LAT will begin at the warehouse today.
- C. Voting Equipment: we will revisit this after the April election.
- D. Legislation: General Counsel Lasker stated that we haven't seen the omnibus bill yet.

VII. New Business

- A. Reconsideration of apparent-conformity disqualification of the "Assessment Limits" referendum in Precinct 38 of Ward 48.
- Mr. Lasker announced this matter and asked if anyone was present regarding this matter. No one responded.
- The Board, under its authority to rule on apparent conformity matters, had previously rejected a referenda petition for the 38th precinct of the 48th ward based on the number of signatures submitted.

The proponents had asked for a reconsideration of the Board's ruling. It had been scheduled for reconsideration at an early Board meeting, but the proponents asked that we reschedule the item as they were unavailable to attend that meeting; it was rescheduled to today. The parties were given notice that the reconsideration was on today's agenda. As recently as yesterday afternoon Mr. Lasker communicated with the proponents.

They are asking that the Board disregard the wording for the signature requirement, which is based on "last gubernatorial election". The November 2018 was the election that the Board used. The proponents used the November 2014 election.

Mr. Lasker expressed that he would like more specificity in the statutes. Commissioner Swain stated that he was concerned, and asked if such a clarification could be added to legislation omnibus bill.

The Chair stated that we can't do anything about it now. Mr. Lasker affirmed that ruling other than as the Board did would be violating the law.

Commissioner Swain moved to deny the request for reconsideration. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion was passed by unanimous vote of the Board and the request for reconsideration was denied.

- B. Approval of Amendment to Professional Service Agreement with Gary Ryczyn. This amendment would increase the compensation cap to \$135,000. All other terms of the agreement would remain the same. Mr. Ryczyn has been providing consulting services to the Board regarding ballots, along with providing consulting services in relation to the Board's anticipated procurement of new election equipment.

Commissioner Swain moved to approve the Amendment to the Professional Service Agreement with Mr. Ryczyn. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The Board voted unanimously to approve the motion and the Amendment to the agreement between the Board and Gary Ryczyn.

- C. Agreement with Arrow Messenger Service, Inc. for Driver and Transportation Services, 2019 Elections. Amanda Robledo of the Board's Purchasing Department and General Counsel Lasker presented the Agreement to the Board.

This proposed agreement is for both the February 2019 and the April 2019 elections, with the combined estimated cost of \$680,000.

The Board would be "piggy-backing" on the City of Chicago's agreement with Arrow. Arrow is a City certified Woman Owned Business Enterprise (WBE). The rates are set by the City's agreement.

Commissioner Swain moved to approve the agreement with Arrow Messenger Services for both the February and April Elections in the amount of \$680,000. Commissioner Kresse seconded the motion. The motion was approved by a 3:0 vote of the Board.

#### VIII. Legal Report

General Counsel Adam Lasker reported as follows:

- We do have election contests in the 6<sup>th</sup> ward aldermanic race, and in the 34<sup>th</sup> ward aldermanic race, along with a lawsuit filed by Mr. Walls with regards to the City Clerk

race. Mr. Lasker believes that the 6<sup>th</sup> ward challenge will be withdrawn, but is unsure regarding the 34<sup>th</sup> ward challenge.

IX. Financial Report


A. Balance Sheet and Voucher Listings for the County of Cook – 2018 Appropriation – 18-10 dated March 13, 2019 in the amount of \$839,444.90. Commissioner Kresse moved to approve this item. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The motion was approved by unanimous vote of the Board.

X. Public Comment: None.

XI. Executive Session: None.

XII. Adjournment: Commissioner Kresse moved to adjourn until the next scheduled Regular Board Meeting on March 26<sup>th</sup>. Commissioner Swain seconded the motion. The Board approved the motion by 3:0 vote of the Board. The meeting was adjourned at 10:43 a.m.

Submitted,



Commissioner William J. Kresse  
Secretary